

Amendment to Figures

Figures 1-4, 12, and 13 were amended according to the examiner's recommendations.

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Claims Amendment

Amendment to Objected Claims: Improper dependency in claims 35, 37, and 38 was corrected according to the examiner's comments.

Claims 1, 49 and 69 are currently amended to overcome the rejection over Yao (US5654818).

Discussion

US 5654818 teaches polarization independent electro-optic modulator. Incoming light of arbitrary polarization state is splitted into two beams polarization states orthogonal to each other. The device disclosed in US 5654818 cannot operate if the incoming light beam is linear polarized.

The device proposed in the present invention is intended to use with linearly polarized incoming light beam. The splitter of Claim1 does not operate as a polarization beam splitter of US 5654818.

The splitter of the present invention is a simple element that directs a part of the incoming beam in one direction and the rest of light in a different direction. Polarization beam splitter of US5654818 is rather complicated device that must contain polarization dependent element such as for example coating.

Claim 1 was amended to make a clear distinction between the splitter of the present invention and the splitter of US 5654818. Similar amendment of Claims 49 and 69 were made.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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